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Central Intelligence Agency



22 April 1988

The Honorable Dennis DeConcini Select Committee on Intelligence United States Senate Washington, DC 20510-6475

Dear Mr. DeConcini,

the Director of Central Intelligence has asked me to respond to your
letter of 14 April 1988 expressing interest in our use of outside contractors
to supplement staff analysis, and in our new initiative to develop a system to
disseminate finished intelligence electronically.
External analysis plays an essential role in our research. It provides
access to the best minds in the academic and industrial world who bring unique
skills and fresh insights to our work. We cannot recruit and retain as staff
analysts large numbers of highly specialized experts in today's rapidly
changing world. Instead, we "rent" such expertise in what we have found is a

cost-effective way to maintain critical skills needed to meet policymaker demands for a growing diversity of finished intelligence. In 1987, we spent on external analysis; roughly two-thirds of the contracts were directed toward scientific and technical topics--mainly Soviet weapons and military technology. The remainder was for such important topics as Soviet economic prospects, stability in the Middle East, and worldwide mineral resources. A detailed listing of contracts by subject, contractor, and amount is contained in our 1989 Congressional Budget submission; copies of the relevant pages (246-265) are enclosed.

The electronic dissemination project represents the first fundamental change in our methods of delivering finished intelligence to policymakers since our beginning over 40 years ago. The project will be expensive: as noted in our submission, the cost to full operational capability in 1993 will

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We believe, however, that the results will more than justify its cost.	25X <sup>2</sup>
The Electronic Dissemination System (EDS) will allow us to communicate directly with some 200-300 policymakers. The system will transmit finished intelligence to high-resolution, color terminals located in various agencies in the Washington area. The system will be used to transmit both immediate intelligence and finished analysis, often tailored to the interests or questions of a specific policymaker. A key feature of EDS will be its interactive nature; that is, each policymaker can quickly and easily select and review information tailored to personal needs and, just as important, receive rapid feedback to queries related to areas of particular interest. Unlike secure video teleconferencing, another area we are exploring actively, EDS will not tie the policymaker down to a particular time for communication. Moreover, EDS will enable the user to access previously produced analysis stored in the systema capability that teleconferencing lacks.	25X
The current system of delivering paper to policymakers is simply too slow and inflexible. Policymakers are demanding our analysis immediately after, or even concurrently with, events; they are no longer satisfied with receiving day-old (at best) analysis of information we are receiving in near-real time. We believe that the positive reception of the Midday Intelligence Report, which was initiated to satisfy consumer desires for an update of developments that have occurred after those described in the morning National Intelligence Daily, clearly demonstrates the benefits of providing a more timely product. In addition, our experience with policymakers and their staffers indicates the premium they place on personalized tailoring of intelligence support. Today, we can extend that treatment only to a small number of key consumers. EDS will allow us to extend that kind of service, electronically, to the broader Washington-area community of senior policymakers.  If you have further questions, or if I or my staff can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.	25X1
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Sincerely,	
	25 <b>X</b>
Daniel A. Childs, Jr. Comptroller	
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## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

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ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, EX OFFICIO MINERT DOLE, KANSAS, EX OFFICIO

SVEN F. HOLMES, STAFF DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL JAMES H DYKSTRA, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR RATHLEEN P McGHEE, CHIEF CLERK

April 14, 1988

The Honorable William Webster Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

Regrettably, I was unable to attend the April 12, 1988 hearing at which the budget for the Central Intelligence Agency for FY 89 was considered by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

One the issues which I had planned to discuss with representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency is funding for the Intelligence Directorate. Specifically, I would like to know how much of the work of the permanent staff of the Intelligence Directorate is supplemented by outside contractors or consultants and would be most appreciative if the following information could be provided to me:

A list which identifies all outside contractors or consultants employed by the Intelligence Directorate in 1987 and includes the cost of each contract along with the product or service provided by each contractor or consultant.

Another issue of interest to me is a new initiative described in the budget justification to develop an electronic dissemination system at a cost of \$1 million. I would like to know what the projected total cost for this system is and what its capabilities will be.

It would be most helpful to me if answers to my questions could be provided in time for review before the committee's April 26 meeting.

Sincerely,

DENNIS DeCONCINI United States Senator

The Honorable David Boren

DDC/Y

SUBJECT: Agency Use of Outside Contractors

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Executive Secretary
20 Apr 88

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From: John Helgerson

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No answer expected or required

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